

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

Twitter @rsnbrgr

This PDF / ZIP / folder / _____ contains first-generation scans and/or photographs of original UNCLASSIFIED historical papers in the public domain stored in the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger accessioned the enclosed papers into his personal collection and he donates this effort to the PUBLIC DOMAIN.

EO 12958: N/A My accession: 2 JUL 24 Initials: DR

Title: USAF ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
LT. GEN ARTHUR C. AGAN

Date(s): 19-22 APR 1976

Call: K239-0512-9000 Volume: N/A

IRIS: 1033136

☐ ALL ☒ Selected Papers ☐ Except

☐ copyrighted news stories; congressional bios; tabbed & oversized pages

FRONT MATTER

— BIOGRAPHY

— PERSONAL FACT SHEET

UNCLASSIFIED
U. S. Air Force
Oral History Interview

K239-0512-900

Lt Gen Arthur C. Agan

19-22 April 1977

71239.0512-900 04/19/76-04/22/76	C.T. RETURN TO AFSHRC MAXWELL AFB AL 36112
-------------------------------------	---

10 FEB 1988



SCANNED BY ISA

ALBERT F. SIMPSON
HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER
Air University

OFFICE OF AIR FORCE HISTORY
Headquarters USAF

UNCLASSIFIED

1033136

ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPT

UNCLASSIFIED

ACCESS GRANTED

DATE

REMARKS PURPOSE

10 FEB 1988

AFSHRC MAXWELL AFB AL 36112	RETURN TO C. J.	75234.0512-900 04/14/76-04/22/76
--------------------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------

1033136

RECEIVED BY HONOR

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Interview

of

Lt Gen Arthur C. Agan

By

Lt Col Vaughn H. Gallacher

19-22 April 1976

Marathon, Florida

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, Arthur C. Ogden, have this day participated in an oral-magnetic-taped interview with Vaughn W. Saltsch, covering my best recollection of events and experiences which may be of historical significance to the United States Air Force.

Understanding that the tape(s) and the transcribed manuscript resulting therefrom will be accessioned into the Archives of the Air Force to be used, as the security classification permits, by qualified historical researchers whose access has been determined to be in the best interest of the United States Air Force, I do hereby voluntarily give, transfer, convey and assign all right, title and interest in the memoirs and remembrances contained in the aforementioned magnetic tapes and manuscript to the Office of Air Force History, acting on behalf of the United States of America, to have and to hold the same forever, hereby relinquishing for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs and assigns all ownership, right, title and interest therein to the donee subject only to the following restrictions: None

Arthur C. Ogden DONOR
Dated 22 April 76

Accepted on behalf of the

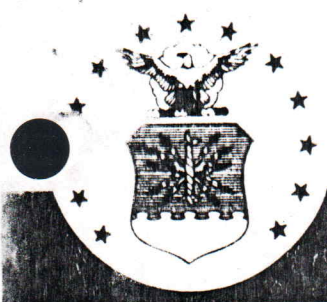
Office of Air Force History by:

Vaughn W. Saltsch
Dated 22 apr 76

FOREWORD

The following is the transcript of an oral history interview recorded on magnetic tape. Since only minor emendations have been made, the reader should consistently bear in mind that he is reading a transcript of the spoken rather than the written word. Additionally, no attempt to confirm the historical accuracy of the statements has been made. As a result, the transcript reflects the interviewee's personal recollections of a situation as he remembered it at the time of the interview.

Editorial notes and additions made by USAF historians are enclosed in brackets. If feasible, first names, ranks, or titles are also provided. Any additions, deletions and changes subsequently made to the transcript by the interviewee are not indicated. Researchers may wish to listen to the actual interview tape prior to citing the transcript.



Biography

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ARTHUR C. AGAN

Lieutenant General Arthur C. Agan is Commander of the U.S. Air Force Aerospace Defense Command (ADC) with headquarters at Ent Air Force Base, Colo. The command administers, trains and equips all U.S. Air Force aerospace defense resources to defend North America, except Alaska. ADC also supervises preparation of Air National Guard resources earmarked for air defense. These combined forces are organized by ADC and made available to the Commander-in-Chief of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

General Agan was born in San Antonio, Tex., on Sept. 12, 1915. After spending his boyhood in Corpus Christi, Tex., General Agan entered the University of Texas. In 1937 he postponed his studies for a year to enroll as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps. After completion of flying training at Randolph and Kelly Fields, Texas, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. He returned to the University of Texas and was graduated in 1939 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Immediately following his graduation General Agan resumed active military duty and obtained a regular commission through competitive examinations. Until early 1942 he served in various squadron duties as pilot, flight commander, and operations officer at Barksdale Field, La., and Savannah Army Air Field, Ga.

In February 1942 General Agan was appointed Chief of Tactical Operations at Headquarters Eighth Air Force in England remaining in that position until January 1944. He then served as Assistant Air Chief of Staff for Operations for the U.S. Army Air Forces in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Assigned to the First Fighter Group in Italy in September 1944, General Agan became Commander of the Group in November 1944. After completing 45 combat missions, with a total of 220 combat hours, the general was shot down over Weiner-Neustadt in March 1945 and interned as a prisoner of war until just prior to VE Day.

Returning to the United States in 1945 General Agan was assigned to the Personnel Services Division, Headquarters, Army Air Force, Washington, D.C. He became Chief of that division in January 1946.

From August 1946 to February 1949 General Agan was Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, Air Defense Command (ADC), and later Deputy for Personnel and Administration, Continental Air Command (CAC), both at Mitchel Field, N.Y. He then became Commander of the 4th Fighter Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and in May 1949 became Commander of the 33d Fighter Wing at Otis Air Force Base, Mass.

Two years later General Agan assumed the duties of Commander of the 32d Air Division, with headquarters at Stewart Air Force Base, N.Y. He remained in that assignment until September 1951, when he attended the Air Command and Staff School and in October 1951 was assigned to the school staff at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He then attended the Air War College, also at Maxwell, and was graduated in June 1953.

In August 1953 General Agan became Commander of the 58th Fighter-Bomber Wing in Korea. Upon his return to the United States the following year, General Agan was assigned to Headquarters Eastern Air Defense Force at Stewart Air Force Base, N.Y. There he served as Deputy for Operations and later as Chief of Staff, Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) Eastern CONAD Region.

General Agan became Commander of the 26th Air Division, with headquarters at Roslyn Air Force Station, N.Y., in August 1957. During the following year, and under General Agan's leadership, the operational concepts for the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) system of air defense and the plans for transition of air defense units to that system were developed and initiated.

In September 1958 General Agan assumed command of the New York Air Defense Sector with headquarters at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., the first operational SAGE Sector in the Nation. Reassigned to Headquarters ADC at Ent Air Force Base, Colo., in October 1959, he assumed the position of Deputy for Plans, later redesignated Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans. In July 1963 General Agan was reassigned to Hancock Field, N.Y., for duty as Commander, 26th Air Division (SAGE).

In July 1964 General Agan was assigned to the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., for duty as Director of Plans, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations. In December 1964 he was reassigned as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations. He was assigned as Vice Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Air Forces in Europe in September 1966.

General Agan assumed the duties of Commander of the Aerospace Defense Command with headquarters at Ent Air Force Base, Colo., in August 1967.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Croix de Guerre with Palm (Belgium) and the Croix de Guerre with Palm (France).

General Agan is married to the former Louise Stovall of San Antonio, Tex. They have three children, Mrs. Mary Agan Cheuse, Mrs. Helen Agan Cowart and Sarah L.

PERSONAL FACT SHEET

A. Personal Data:

1. Born - Sept. 12, 1915, San Antonio, Tex.; father - Arthur C. Agan, Sr. (deceased); mother - Mattie Bell Agan.
2. Married - Sept. 1939; wife - Louise Stovall Agan; children - Mary E. (Mrs. Cheuse), Helen T. (Mrs. Cowart) and Sarah L.
3. Hometown - 1408 Santa Fe, Corpus Christi, Tex.

B. Education:

1. Attended Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville, Tex., 1933-1934.
2. Attended University of Texas, Austin, Tex., 1934-1937.
3. Graduate Army Air Corps Flying Schools, Randolph and Kelly Fields, Tex., 1937.
4. Graduate University of Texas, Austin, Tex., BBA, 1939.
5. Air Command and Staff School, Maxwell AFB, Ala., 1951.
6. Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., 1953.

C. Service:

1. Oct 1936 - Oct 1937 Pilot training, U.S. Army Air Corps, Randolph & Kelly Flds., Tex.
2. Oct 1937 - June 1939 Inactive.
3. June 1939 - Dec 1940 Pilot and Sq. Adj., 13th Attack Sq., Barksdale Fld., La., and Savannah AAF, Ga.
4. Jan 1941 - May 1941 Ops. Officer, 13th Bomb. Sq., Savannah AAF, Ga.
5. May 1941 - Jan 1942 Flt. Comdr. & Ops. Officer, 11th Reconnaissance Sq., 27th Bomb. Gp.; also 13th Bomb. Sq., 3d Bomb. Gp., Savannah AAF, Ga.
6. Jan 1942 - Jan 1944 Ops., and Tng. Staff Officer, Hq. 8th AF, England.
7. Jan 1944 - Sept 1944 Asst. Air Chief of Staff, Ops., Hq. U.S. Army Air Forces, Mediterranean Theater of Ops.
8. Sept 1944 - Aug 1945 Comdr., 1st Ftr. Gp., Italy (Prisoner of war, March - May 1945).
9. Aug 1945 - Aug 1946 Dep. Ch., and later Chief, Pers. Svcs. Div., Hq. Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.

10. Aug 1946 - June 1947 Asst. Chief of Staff, Personnel, Hq. ADC, Mitchell Fld., N.Y.
11. July 1947 - Feb 1949 Dep. for Personnel & Administration, Hq. CAC, Mitchell AFB, N.Y.
12. Feb 1949 - May 1949 Comdr., 4th Ftr. Wg., Andrews AFB, Md.
13. May 1949 - Dec 1950 Comdr., 33d Ftr. Wg., Otis AFB, Mass.
14. Jan 1951 - Sept 1951 Comdr., 32d Air Div., Stewart AFB, N.Y.
15. Sept 1951 - Oct 1951 Student, Academic & Instructors Course, Air Command & Staff School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
16. Oct 1951 - Aug 1952 Ch., Personnel & Administrative Div., Hq. Air Command & Staff School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
17. Aug 1952 - June 1953 Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
18. July 1953 - May 1954 Comdr., 58th Ftr.-Bomber Wg., Korea.
19. June 1954 - Jan 1957 Dep. for Ops., Hq. Eastern Air Defense Force, Stewart AFB, N.Y.
20. Jan 1957 - July 1957 Dep. Ch. of Staff, Ops., Hq. Eastern Air Defense Force; C/S, Eastern CONAD Region, Stewart AFB, N.Y.
21. Aug 1957 - Sept 1958 Comdr., 26th Air Div., Roslyn Air Force Station, N.Y.
22. Sept 1958 - Sept 1959 Comdr., New York Air Defense Sector, McGuire AFB, N.J.
23. Oct 1959 - July 1963 Dep. Ch. of Staff, Plans, Hq. ADC, Ent AFB, Colo.
24. July 1963 - July 1964 Comdr., 26th NORAD Region & 26th Air Div. (SAGE), Hancock Fld., Syracuse, N.Y.
25. July 1964 - Dec 1964 Dir. of Plans, Dep. Ch. of Staff, Plans & Ops., Hq. U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
26. Dec 1964 - Aug 1966 Asst. Dep. Ch. of Staff, Plans & Ops., Hq. U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
27. Sept 1966 - July 1967 Vice CINC, USAFE, Lindsey Air Station, Wiesbaden, Germany.
28. Aug 1967 - Present Commander, Aerospace Defense Command, Ent AFB, Colo.
29. Feb 1970 - Retired

D. Decorations and Service Awards:

Legion of Merit w/3 oak leaf clusters	American Campaign Medal
Distinguished Flying Cross	European-African-Middle
Bronze Star Medal	Eastern Campaign Medal
Air Medal w/2 oak leaf clusters	w/8 service stars
Army Commendation Medal w/1 oak	World War II Victory Medal
leaf cluster	National Defense Service
Purple Heart	Medal w/1 service star
Distinguished Unit Citation	Croix de Guerre w/Palm
American Defense Service Medal	(Belgium)
	Croix de Guerre w/Palm
	(France)

E. Effective Dates of Promotions:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Temporary</u>	<u>Permanent</u>
2d Lt	Oct 6, 1937	Aug 15, 1939
1st Lt	Sept 9, 1940	Aug 14, 1942
Capt	Apr 6, 1942	
Maj	May 1, 1942	
Lt Col	Dec 22, 1942	July 2, 1948
Col	Dec 29, 1943	July 23, 1953
Brig Gen	Dec 13, 1955	Mar 7, 1961
Maj Gen	July 1, 1960	Feb 28, 1963
Lt Gen	Sept 1, 1966	

(Date of rank June 29, 1966)

E N D

vii

vii

Guide to Contents

Lt Gen Arthur C. Agan Interview

Page

1	Early Life in Corpus Christi, Texas
2	Mother ran private school for 44 years
3	Father was in cattle and meat business
6	Graduated from high school in 1933
7	Left Texas A&I University and entered University of Texas
	Went to flying school as a Reserve officer
8	Took examination for permanent commission in 1939
11	Ran ground school to help pay for college expenses
15	Took flying training at Randolph Field, Texas
21	Army Air Corps was trying to get better recognition
24	Debated with Lyndon Johnson while in high school
26	General McConnell would brief President Johnson
27	First active duty assignment was at Barksdale Field
30	Gen Leon Johnson was weather officer at Barksdale Field
31	Went into War Department Foreign Agent Branch for awhile
32	Eighth Air Force was activated at Savannah, Georgia
37	Original invasion plans were prepared at Bolling Field.
40	Gen Leon Johnson was Chief of Staff for Operations of Eighth Air Force at Savannah

Page

- 42 Engaged in maneuvers with Army in Carolinas and Georgia
- 45 Concepts of close air support were better defined than strategic operations
- 47 Was tactical operations officer from the inception of Eighth Air Force
- 51 Attended Navy dive-bomber SBD-3 school
- 56 Participated in sub chasing along Atlantic coast
- 57 Few people were talking about air superiority aircraft
- 59 Eighth Air Force was the US Air Force in the United Kingdom
- 62 Air Commodore Vasse was Chief of Air Tactics in the RAF
- 64 RAF was great in conducting clandestine operations
- 66 Set up Combined Operational Planning Committee in UK
- 69 Low-altitude attack with A-20 aircraft into France
- 71 Tactical aviation is presently considered in a broader scope than close-air support
- 74 Reported regularly to General Spaatz on tactical operations
- 75 General Hunter assigned specific tasks to each fighter group
- 77 War room was located in Bushy Park near London.
- 78 Many civilians in operations analysis
- 82 Early bomber offensives were initially not always promising
- 84 Bombers cannot exist without fighter escorts

<u>Page</u>	
86	Weather conditions hampered combat operations over Europe
89	German submarines were a real problem in the North Atlantic
92	B-24 losses were greater because of low-altitude operations
93	Combined bomber offensive and AWPB-1 and AWPB-42
95	German fighter force was not first priority target
97	Control of Allied air operations in Europe
99	Pinpoint versus area bombing controversy arose with British
102	British believed in short-range versus long-range fighters
104	Casablanca Conference of January 1943
108	General Doolittle was responsible for allowing fighters to abandon rigid escort formations
114	German flak became increasingly accurate
115	Serious morale problems early in the war
117	Put in charge of worldwide research for missing military personnel
118	Casualty rates for airmen were initially higher than infantry
120	Enjoyed working with General Doolittle
121	Went to Africa and Italy
122	Did not want to go to RAF Staff College
125	Edgar Schmood came up with concept of a P-51 with long range
126	US aircraft were bigger and heavier than British types

Page

127	P-51 was more vulnerable to flak than the P-47
128	Knew little about the first Ploesti raid
130	Many in Eighth Air Force felt British night bombing was inefficient
135	Schweinfurt mission was delayed 3-1/2 hours
140	General Longfellow was relieved from 8th Bomber Command
144	Secretary McNamara was at NORAD for briefing
149	Tendency within recent years to overcentralize control
150	All-weather air capability is not good presently
151	German fighter tactics
152	Germans preferred 20-millimeter cannon on their aircraft
155	Focke-Wulf 190 was a beautiful performing aircraft
159	German rockets were not accurate
160	Kelly Johnson is a genius in aeronautical engineering
161	Assessing intelligence provided to Eighth Air Force
163	Stayed abreast of radar jamming capabilities
166	German fighters would knock down British night bombers
167	Problems encountered with IFF
169	Fighter aircraft had problems with guns freezing
171	RAF provided air defense force in England
174	African campaign must be seen in a different light
175	Accompanied General Eaker to Italy

Page

178	German fighter opposition began to decline early in 1944
181	General Cannon commanded Twelfth Air Force
182	General Davis and the 99th Fighter Squadron
184	Served as Chief of Tactical Operations in Italy
185	Operations Shingle and Strangle
190	Missions in support of Russian ground forces
192	Quality of personnel and equipment was improved in the Mediterranean theater
194	British contributions to the war effort in the Mediterranean theater
196	Participation in the Anzio operation
198	Involvement in the Monte Cassino operation
202	B-17s bombed valleys to clear the Germans out
203	Desert warfare could be almost like sea warfare in the maneuvering and fighting scheme
209	Put together reconnaissance outfit for the invasion of southern France
214	Provided fighter cover for Yalta participants
222	Used 450-gallon plywood tanks on long missions
223	Flew records on Ploesti oilfields out of Rumania
225	Shot down over Wiener Neustadt
228	Two P-80 jet aircraft were assigned to outfit
234	Interrogated by Gestapo in Wiener Neustadt
241	Liberated by General Patton's army
242	General Patton drove his tank through prison gates

Page

- 244 Interrogated in Paris for about a week
- 246 Fighter pilots posed as enlisted men while POWs
- 248 Flew to United States with General Hansell
- 249 Married in September 1939
- 253 General Holloway became a strong supporter of SAC.
- 254 Always believed in a total USAF
- 256 McNamara and Enthoven pushed for a large transport force
- 259 Returned from overseas and went to work for General Johnson
- 260 Army Quartermaster Corps handled letters to next of kin
- 262 Dulag Luft records were found at Fort Meade, Maryland
- 265 Had run-ins with columnist Drew Pearson
- 267 First involvement in ADC work at Mitchel Field, New York
- 269 Many problems were encountered in developing an air defense force
- 272 ADC has had many reorganizations through the years
- 275 General Kuter was a capable commander
- 277 Many Congressmen supported a strong air defense
- 279 Summer study group was set up to investigate defenses against bombers
- 283 United States had air defense capability by 1950 or 1951
- 285 Commanded 4th Fighter Wing at Andrews AFB, Maryland

Page

- 287 Became 32d Air Division Commander
- 294 Objectives of the Air War College
- 295 Commanded 58th Fighter Bomber Wing in Korea
- 297 Assigned to Headquarters Eastern Air Defense Force
at Stewart AFB
- 301 Remained at Stewart AFB from June 1954 to July 1957
- 304 World War II control center was still being used
at Roslyn AFB, New York
- 308 Tremendous improvement in air combat control with
introduction of SAGE equipment
- 310 F-104 is too limited on range
- 313 Marked reduction on air defense emphasis in early
to mid-1960s
- 318 No defense exists in United States for missiles or
bombers
- 322 US experienced its greatest failure when it became
involved in Vietnam
- 325 CONAD/NORAD/ADC split of functions was not a prac-
tical problem
- 329 Promoted to major general in 1960
- 331 ADC funding began to level off
- 334 NORAD was always pushing for reorganizations
- 336 TAC was way behind in its awareness of airborne
radar
- 337 ADC Weapons Center at Panama City developed into
a very competent organization
- 339 ADC was seeking a new advanced interceptor
- 341 Pushed for more money and effort in ballistic
missile defense

Page

- 342 Became NORAD Commander at Hancock Field, Syracuse,
New York
- 343 Became Director of Plans and Deputy Chief of Staff
of Plans and Operations in Washington
- 344 Influence exerted by Gen Maxwell Taylor's book,
Uncertain Trumpet
- 346 McNamara and Enthoven pushed the use of analysis
to determine cost-effectiveness for weapon systems
- 347 The function of the Farmgate operation in Vietnam
- 355 Genesis of the AWACS concept
- 358 Results of CAD study were never implemented
- 360 Became Vice CINCUSAFE
- 363 Immediately involved with repercussions of Israeli
war
- 368 Became Commander of ADC
- 369 ADC budget cuts continued despite strong protests
- 378 Final force structure determination was made by
OSDSA
- 380 Unfairness of promotions for radar station com-
manders
- 386 Army attempted to get into air defense business
- 392 No agreement ever reached on the threat
- 393 NORAD helped ADC in the political realm
- 397 How F-4 was brought into Air Force inventory
- 404 F-15 still requires guns
- 405 National Guard held to as high standards as active
Air Force

Page

- 413 No deterrent exists against Russian bombers
- 415 Gen David Jones was original B-70 project officer
- 418 Fought hard to get ADC to provide defense of overseas land areas as required
- 420 F-5 is not "gutsy enough"
- 422 OSD was not interested in a competent air defense
- 430 Air defense program has to be supported and accomplished through the Air Force
- 432 Urged strong civil defense program for the US
- 436 A man's character becomes apparent fairly early
- 443 Disagreed with Brownie points and fear systems in SAC
- 444 Quest for excellence is fun, not drudgery
- 447 Don't worry about promotions
- 448 Meetings are often places where you simply swap ignorance.